CAPITOL HILL HOUSE & GARDEN TOUR

SUNDAY MAY 8 2-6 PM.

TEA

ALVA BELMONT HOUSE

144 CONSTITUTION AVENUE

JITNEY SERVICE

CAPITOL HILL

Ninth Annual

HOUSE AND GARDEN TOUR

Sunday, May 8, 1966

2:00 P.M. – 6:00 P.M.

Tea – 4:00 P.M. – 7:00 P.M.

Alva Belmont House

144 Constitution Avenue

Tour Booklet 25¢

THE TOUR

Major Pierre L'Enfant once described the future site of the U. S. Capitol as a "pedestal waiting for a monument," and planned for substantial development east of the edifice on high ground. Speculators acquired all available land. Prices became unrealistically high, forcing the growth of the city west and northwest. As a result, construction of Capitol Hill's commercial era began, for the most part, after the War Between the States.

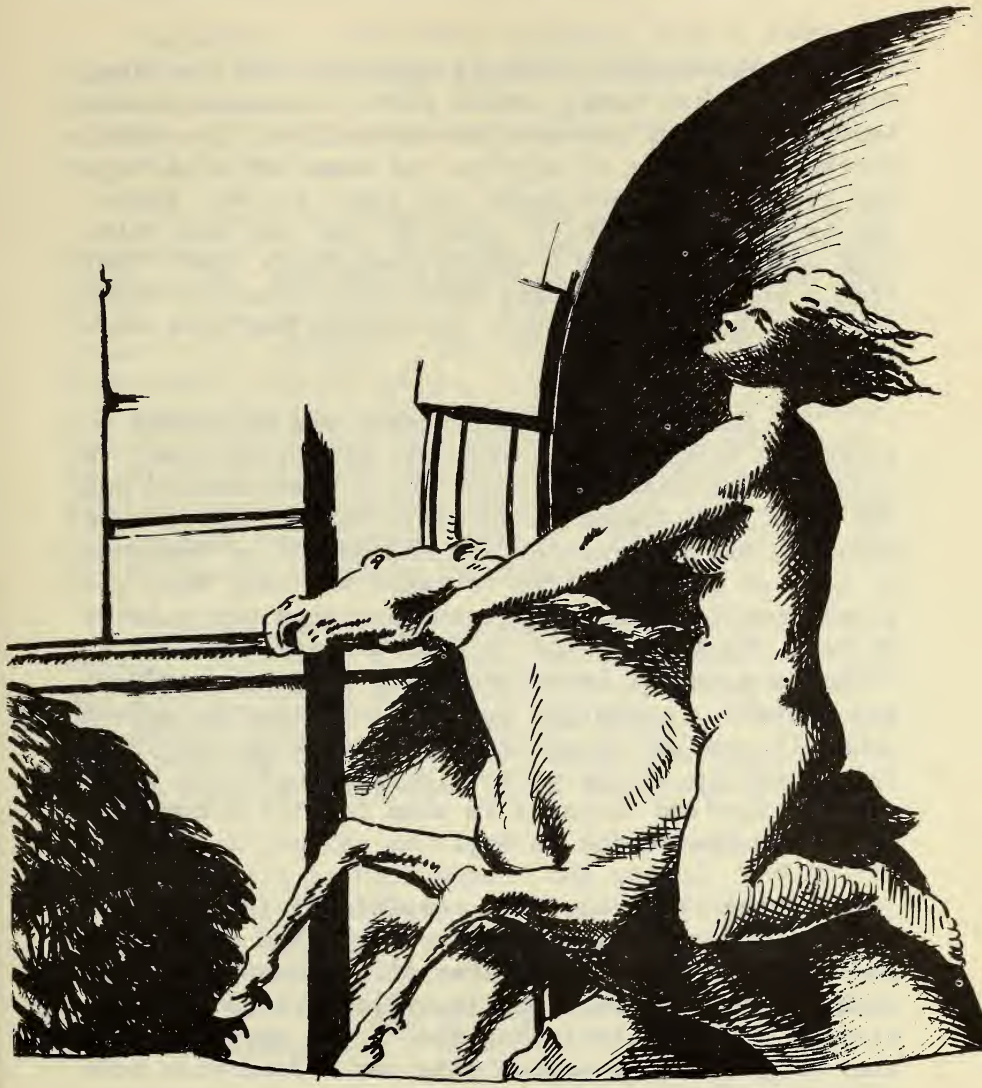
Although much of the restoration of Hill houses hews closely to old lines, there is also considerable innovation and modernization. Furthermore, social patterns, as well as architectural patterns, are undergoing change. On the Hill, the past is not so much being preserved as the future is being born.

The Capitol Hill Restoration Society strives for the creation of an open and harmonious new community, accommodating diverse people. It looks toward the day when L'Enfant's monument will be, in a larger sense, complete.

ENROUTE

In addition to the Capitol, the Supreme Court, the Library of Congress, the two Senate Office Buildings and three House Office Buildings, there are a number of other buildings and monuments of interest to the sightseer on Capitol Hill. They are not on the Tour, but do appear in the finer print throughout this booklet.

FOUNTAIN STATUARY LIBRARY OF CONGRESS



Lincoln Park, East Capitol Street between Eleventh and Thirteenth Streets, with the Emancipation Monument.

Marine Commandant's House, 801 G Street, S. E. It was built in 1805. It is attributed to both Benjamin Latrobe, architect of the Capitol, and Colonel Anne Louis de Tousard, an associate of L'Enfant.

Residence of Mr. and Mrs. Rolf T. Harbo
118 Fourth Street, S. E.

The Restoration Society selected this 3-story, flat front and back, circa 1885 townhouse as the best residential restoration on Capitol Hill in 1964. Purchased because it adjoins the home of a sister, the ground-level entrances are ideal for Mr. Harbo, who is in a wheelchair much of the time and walks with great effort due to right hemiplegia (paralysis) from a stroke 4 1/2 years ago. The owners were on the site only twice before work began and once during construction.

The purpose of the restoration was to create on a limited budget, in a specific period of time, a pleasant and practical home for a semi-invalid and his wife. Work began in January 1964 and as much as possible was contracted. A friend milled hundreds of feet of new wood trim to match the old. Work requiring meticulous detail and patience was a labor of love by family and friends who spend weekends, nights, and annual leave restoring original hardware and mantels, scraping and refinishing the walnut handrail and 119 spindels, and ransacking junkyards for materials of the period. Miraculously the house was finished and carpeted in time for the monumental move from New Jersey in May.

Living here was made possible by installation of an elevator large enough to carry the wheelchair and an attendant. It required no penthouse, and the mechanism was conveniently installed in a third-floor closet. The cost, including shaft, was approximately that of a small-to-medium size car. Handrails were thoughtfully provided on both sides of the stairs so the patient can use the stairs when able to do so, or in the event of elevator failure (which has not yet occurred). A telephone was installed in the elevator for such an eventuality, making it a very useful private, moveable phone booth.

Harbo Residence (continued)

Handrails at the front entrance are of unusual height and pitch to give support when clearing the threshold step. Small shutters at the living room windows are designed to give privacy without a feeling of confinement.

The first floor has been made much more spacious by removing a partition between the stairway and living room, and installing double doors between the dining room and kitchen. A powder room was added opposite the elevator, the laundry and furnace room redesigned, and of course a new kitchen installed, the new fireplace being attached to the old chimney breast, which houses the furnace on theoother side. On the ceiling above the fireplace the exposed structure of the second-floor hearth is an interesting and unusual decorative detail. All fireplaces in the house are in operating condition.

The new garden and garage construction was necessary to provide a private outdoor exercise area and assure parking without hazard from moving traffic. The garage door is electric, and there is considerable storage area in lofts above the cars. The myrtle tree in the garden is of great age and size.

Except for the addition of the elevator, closets and built-in bookcases, the second and third floors are still much the same structurally as when the Kenneth Websters lived here from 1907-1963. They installed the tile baths and excellent gas-fired hot-water heating system. Rigid grab bars have been added in bathrooms.

Since loose carpet is a great danger when one walks with a cane, floors are carpeted wall-to-wall on two floors, but left bare on the third as Mr. Harbo prefers them this way for exercise walking. Furnishings throughout are arranged so that traffic paths are wide and uncluttered so the wheelchair can get into all areas of the house with ease.

Residence of John H. Allen
422 Independence avenue, S. E.

Moving the entrance to the side and filling in the "Dogleg" with beautiful ironwork balconies have given this house not only the illusion of tremendous size but also the feeling of an old southern mansion.

There is a concealed, fool proof burglary alarm system in the restoration of this house for the protection of the lovely and unusual 18th Century originals.

Notice the Chinese orientals and particularly the Boccarah rug in the drawing room.

A fabulous collection of Lowestoft (1740-1790) is displayed throughout the house that includes such pieces as a "Judgment of Paris" plate, a "Marriage of Canaan" mug, several Jesuit plates and a most remarkable bowl, subject "Sailor's Farewell", made expressly for the American export trade.

A large collection of "Tole" includes a tray and two lamps formerly owned by Napoleon.

The dining room houses numerous pieces of lovely Georgian silver mostly made by Crichton and two crystal Hurricane shades that belonged to Napoleon.

The most attractive fact about this house is that these treasures are so artistically and subtly displayed that one is not overawed by them.

Residence of Col. & Mrs. Clyde Brooks
500 Independence Avenue, S. E.

Completely original in their restoration, both inside and outside, Col. and Mrs. Brooks have produced a most interesting and delightful addition to Capitol Hill residential homes.

They moved the entrance from 500 Independence to Fifth Street. The center entrance is a continuation of brick walls enclosing the patio and gives the feeling of a sizeable structure.

Most of the house reflects the years the Brooks spent in France.

There are street lamps at the door; the small rosewood game table in the entrance hall; the charming white marble fireplace mantle contrasting with French gray walls, the stunning Louis XV commode and commode secretaire, several French Provincial chairs and early sconces in the living room.

Probably the most interesting effect in the house is the kitchen area where a tall, French break rack and a marble topped butcher's table have been used as a divider.

Dark wood kitchen cabinets complement the striking Brittany armoire which dates back to 1745.

The dining table is a cherry Louis XV and close by is an olive wood buffet with a copper fountain used as a wall decoration.

Glass doors at the end of the dining area seem to make the patio an extension of the room while tucked away in a corner is a small open fireplace for broiling a steak or cheering the diner.

In certain spots throughout the house the old, unadorned brick wall and slate floor have been subtly and successfully melded with elegant wallpaper or a crystal chandelier.

Residence of Col. and Mrs. John Goodley
11 Fifth Street, S. E.

This large and handsome Victorian mansion with a mansard roof and dormer windows is set in a charming side and back garden. Already in a map dated 1791 the site of the house appears as belonging to a William Prout. The House itself was built in 1887 and in 1893 the second floor balcony was added.

Col. and Mrs. John Goodley,the present owners, have collected an imposing amount of interesting mementoes from their overseas duty tours and expecially from their stay in Turkey. Throughout the house one sees a very exciting collection of Turkish and Persian prayer rugs and brass braziers from Turkey,which add an exotic note to the otherwise predominantly Victorian furnishings of the Goodleys.

On the living room fireplace mantle one sees a very unusual musical box featuring a Turkish lady dressed in her traditional Turkish costume complete with blue beads to avert the evil eye. Precious brasses from old temples, and an old Korean stirrup, together with brass braziers and prayer rugs make this a very exciting living room.

In the hall coming up the stairs to the second floor note a handsome Turkish prayer rug hung on the wall, tapestry fashion.

In the upstairs library more milk glass, Turkish brasses, and an interesting covered copper dish from Turkey. Also note the pretty balcony with the view of the charming garden.

In the main bedroom there are a number of interesting shadow boxes arranged by Mrs. Goodley and filled with the Goodleys' travelling mementoes from distant lands. Two identical "Hitchcock" beds of tiger maple are another feature of this room.

In the front guest room, notice the majestic Victorian bed, as well as the Victorian chest and armoire. On the bed a precious bedcover of Battenberg lace and embroidery. On the floor a silk rug in a flamboyant Victorian floral pattern.

Residence of Dr. Paul Nolan
503 A Street, S. E.

Arrangement, color, texture and scale are adventurously used in this Victorian brick of the late 1800's. Still in the process of restoration, the owner's individual feeling for design is effectively displayed. Dr. Nolan purchased most of his furnishings in Venice, Rome and Paris. Note the authentic Ching dynasty folding screen and Italian altar candelabra in the living room. The handsome table in the dining room is Dr. Nolan's own design based on the perfect quadrilateral figure, and above is an old Spanish baroque lantern made into a chandelier. The accent mark in the dining room is a collection of silver in what had been an old closet. An unusual feature are the rock crystal and gilded bronze torchiers on tall pedestals. On the second floor is a more informal second drawing room, Dr. Nolan's study, and two bedrooms. Note the ornate altar lamp from St. Matthews Cathedral. The Italian and French accents throughout are a delight to see.

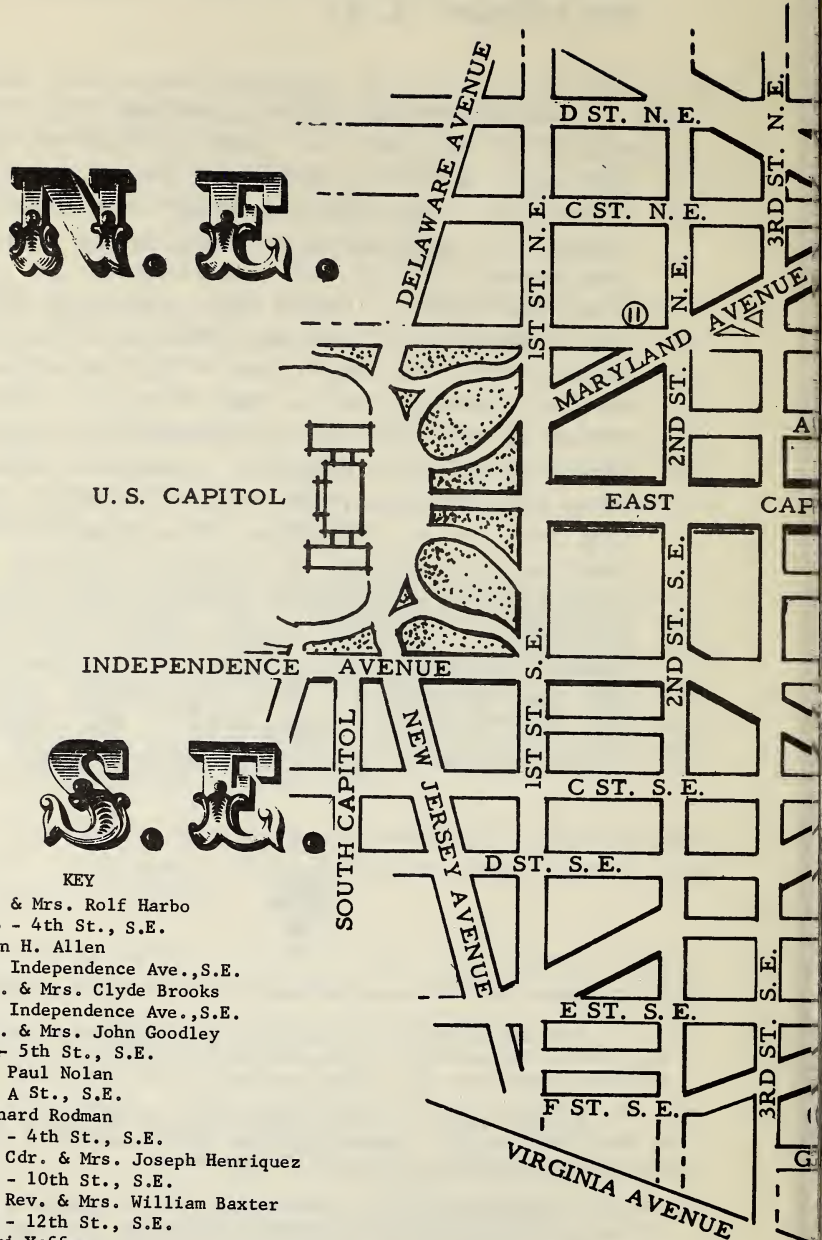
The Folger Shakespeare Library, Second and East Capitol Streets.

Alva Belmont House, Second Street and Constitution Avenue, dating from 1799. Now serving as headquarters of the National Women's Party, it has been suggested as the official residence of the Vice President.

Stanton Square, C Street between Fourth and Sixth Streets, N. E., is named for Lincoln's Secretary of War, and is the site of a statue of General Nathaniel Greene, Revolutionary War hero.

Friendship House, 619 D Street, S.E. This neighborhood center for children and adults' activities antedates Washington. On the front porch of the frame residence built there in 1796, Lafayette and Washington allegedly discussed plans for the capital city. The property's owners include Francis Scott Key.

Christ Church, 620 G Street, S.E., is the oldest church on Capitol Hill and the second oldest in the District. It was founded in 1794 and among its prominent worshippers in the first years was Thomas Jefferson.



KEY

1. Mr. & Mrs. Rolf Harbo
   118 - 4th St., S.E.
2. John H. Allen
   422 Independence Ave.,S.E.
3. Col. & Mrs. Clyde Brooks
   500 Independence Ave.,S.E.
4. Col. & Mrs. John Goodley
   11 - 5th St., S.E.
5. Dr. Paul Nolan
   503 A St., S.E.
6. Richard Rodman
   535 - 4th St., S.E.
7. Lt. Cdr. & Mrs. Joseph Henriquez
   509 - 10th St., S.E.
8. The Rev. & Mrs. William Baxter
   139 - 12th St., S.E.
9. Henri Yaffe
   630 East Capitol St.
10. Mr. & Mrs. Robert Reich
    617 A St., N.E.
11. Belmont House
    144 Constitution Ave., N.E.

4TH ST. N. E.
5TH ST. N. E.
6TH ST. N. E.
7TH ST. N. E.
8TH ST. N. E.
9TH ST. N. E.
10TH ST. N. E.
STANTON SQUARE
MASSACHUSETTS AVENUE
N. E.
STREET
A ST. S. E.
LINCOLN SQUARE
KENTUCKY AVENUE
NORTH CAROLINA AVENUE
SEWARD SQUARE
PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE
SOUTH CAROLINA AVENUE
5TH ST. S. E.
6TH ST. S. E.
MARION SQUARE
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Residence of Mr. Richard E. Rodman
535 Fourth Street, S. E.

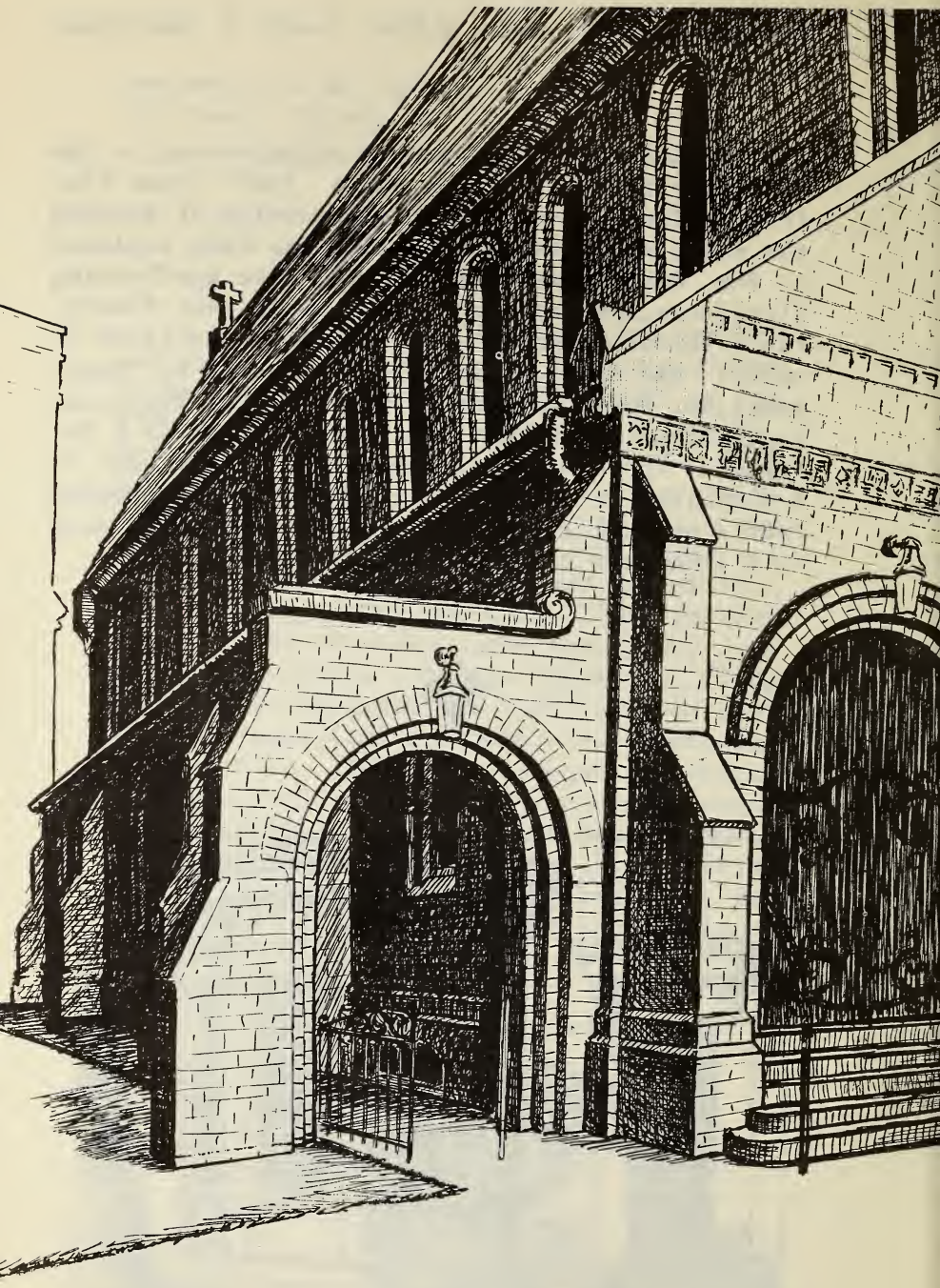
A fondness for 18th and 19th Century antiques is well-displayed throughout this tastefully restored, wide flat front of the 1880's. Gracious and warm in feeling, Mr. Rodman enjoys the love of the old with 20th Century advantages. The huge circular swimming pool, cabana, and terraced patio add much to urban comfort. A discerning eye will note the Benjamin Willard Grandfather clock dating to 1760, the Circa 1700 Pembroke tables, the Edwardian love seat, and the early 1800 antique Chinese rug in the living room. Well-designed, this spacious home features an excellent collection of Napoleonic prints, Circa 1800, and a baroque chandelier from England, Circa 1700, in the dining room. The delightful kitchen with rear stairway and family room completes the first floor. Four attractively furnished bedrooms, den and three baths complete the second floor. It's truly a home of a family who enjoys the old and the new.

The Navy Yard: Latrobe is supposed to have designed its main gate at Eighth and M Streets, S. E.

Residence of Lt. Cmdr. & Mrs. Joseph S. Henriquez
509 Tenth Street, S. E.

Colonial Williamsburg reincarnated is the enjoyable feature of this early 1800 frame flat front. The closest possible execution of keeping the early character and feeling has been achieved by the Henriquezs. There are five woodburning fireplaces,the original random width pine floors, the colonial kitchen with unobvious additions of modern day needs. Furnished to scale in Early American, Queen Anne,and a bow to later Victorian furnishings, this remarkable restoration is a delight. The hidden area under the dormer roof is a surprise art studio with glass doors opening onto a private sundeck. The patio area is graced by a limestone sculpture by Bill Taylor.

The Frederick Douglass townhouse, 316 A Street, N. E., in which the Museum of African Art is located,. is considered one of the finest examples of Victorian architecture in the vicinity.



St. Mark's Church, 301 A Street, S.E.,began as a mission of Christ Church in 1867. Services were held in various places during the church's early years. Construction of the present building started in 1894. The First Family occasionally worships there now.

The Residence of the Rev. & Mrs. William M. Baxter
139 Twelfth Street, S. E.

This is St. Mark's Episcopal Church Rectory. It was the renowned "Didden Mansion", and it is a flamboyant semi-detached house built in 1910. The original woodwork still in the house is mahogany, oak and curly birch,and is of remarkable quality. Also the chandeliers, most of which were found in the house and refinished and, in some cases, re-assembled and "modernized" are of special interest.

This is a big and comfortable house built with the Edwardian large family in mind; and it allows for roominess and dignity.

Of interest, are several antique and semi-antique rugs in the dining room, hall and study. Throughout the house there are interesting paintings; note, especially, the Baxter children by Elizabeth Harrell in the study and paintings by the Rev. Baxter.

On the second floor one finds five bedrooms and three bathrooms. In two of the baths, the quaint original tile and some of the original plumbing fixtures have been preserved.

The large and comfortable master bedroom has interesting Victorian furniture and a remarkable full-length mirror set in a graceful stand of mahogany with charming brass decorations. This mirror, as well as several other pieces, in the house came from Rev. Baxter's ancestors.

Another very pleasing piece of furniture is a butternut chest of drawers of beautiful color and commodious dimensions in one of the back bedrooms.

In the kitchen, note the convenient hearth arrangement.

Residence of Mr. Henri Yaffe
630 East Capitol Street

Putting the right piece in the right place is one of the talents of Henri Yaffe. Taking his pick of treasures from many places and periods, Mr. Yaffe blends them successfully together as effective companions. This restoration of an elegant home and apartments is a fine addition to familiar East Capitol Street. The 40 foot drawing room with 15 foot ceilings is a masterpiece of restoration, blending American, French and Victorian furniture. Note the 18th Century Chippendale china cabinet, the Sheraton sofa, Baltimore Circa 1820, the small Empire sofa covered in gold leather, the 18th Century Directorie chair, and his marvelous collection of Lowestoft china. The candlesticks on the mantle are of Russian bases with Baccarat crystal chimneys. The dining room on the lower level is of Early American pine,and the distinctive kitchen is a treat for the gourmet cook.

Residence of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Reich
617 A Street, N. E.

The prim and cheerful Victorian front of this home was added to a much older flat-front frame structure at the turn of the century. Embellished now with antique ironwork, and a delicate weather-vane, the house opens to an astonishing vista of spaciousness as one enters. This is a new concept in row housing created by the owner-designer.

One of the most interesting design accomplishments in this home is the reallocation of space within the absolute limitations imposed by the original frame construction. Bearing posts (two of the six in the house are exposed) and joists could not be disturbed under any circumstances, which meant that the stairs had to remain where originally installed. The manner in which the builder has handled the new stairs is not only excitingly beautiful, but adds interest and enchantment to the visitor's first impression as he enters.

The Reich's home is so new that they have not had a chance to work out furniture arrangements, picture placement or any of the myriad touches which make an unusual house into a charming home. We include this residence in the tour because of its many unique design features.

These open at every turn of the eye. Note the delightful blending of old and new, such as the antique corkscrew wood soffit in the marvelously compact kitchen. Note, the spacious pantry shelves, the washer-dryer stack-on units, the antique light fixtures. The brass light is an old Pullman car "angle lamp". The French papier-mache fleurs de lis on the walls of the powder room and master bedroom were removed from the dining room walls of a

... see next page

Reich Residence (continued)

Vermont Avenue Victorian mansion prior to its demolition years ago. The plaque above the fountain pool is heavy cast iron, origin unknown. The railing at the dining level is temporary until the Reichs can bring down some magnificent cast iron panels from a Pittsburgh mansion leveled last year.

The unusual chandelier picked up in the Paris flea market merits a second glance. Its prisms betray its church origin of long ago. A new experience for most visitors will be the descent to the living room level past a large fountain pool with its indoor garden above. Passing on to the living room proper, the spiral stairs lead to the master bedroom,an airy retreat of glass and redwood, disassociated from the front of the house,where dwell children and guests. Here again, the owners have blended old with new as they use an antique pink marble lavatory and old mirrors from a Rhode Island Avenue mansion in their bath, whose stained glass window is owner-created.

Most of us wish it were possible. Here it is actually true. One steps from one's bedroom to spacious sun-deck in absolute privacy. And this deck is large enough to hold a party,as tables and chairs clearly show.

The main stairs are solid walnut, as is the paneling in the dining and living rooms.

And to make sure that Capitol Hill was represented, the marble frame in the back wall was rescued from old Providence Hospital.

THE ALVA BELMONT HOUSE -
Headquarters of the National Woman's Party
144 Constitution Avenue, N. E.

The original deed for the property, then consisting of 1000 acres, was dated 1663. The property was described in an Act of Congress in 1960 as:

> "An historic monument," which was "known in the 1600's and 1700's as Cerne Abbey Manor, later the property of members of the distinguished Carroll and Sewall families; still later the office and residence of Albert Gallatin, Secretary of the Treasury,1801-1813, who here directed the financing of the Louisiana Purchase;since 1929 the Headquarters of the National Woman's Party and known as the Alva Belmont House."

During the debate in the U. S. Senate in 1958 with regard to saving the building from being torn down to make way for a parking lot, Senator Paul H. Douglas of Illinois described the building as..."one of the oldest and most historic and most beautiful buildings in the City of Washington." Senator Carl Hayden of Arizona supported this statement, saying "The Senator is correct."

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Capitol Hill Restoration Society

Mrs. Walter Bennett, General Chairman
Ninth Annual House and Garden Tour

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Plastic	Jack Guest Kurt Garthright
Cleanup	Paul Beatley Paul Nolan

The Capitol Hill Restoration Society expresses its most sincere appreciation to those who graciously opened their homes for this year's tour.